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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC 50th Infantry Battalion in Marianske Lazne and Unit

in Hruskova 25X1

EVALUATION 25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT Up to 1 July 1950

DATE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE PREPARED 25 August 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 25X1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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- 25X1 1. Infantry Unit [redacted] was transferred to
 25X1 Marianske Lazne (N 50/P 56) on 1 April 1950. It had been stationed,
 25X1 [redacted] in Lazne Kynzvalt (N 51/P 56). The unit was
 subordinate to a headquarters in Karlovy Vary (N 51/P 69). [redacted] 25X1
- 25X1 2. The unit had its headquarters company, rifle company, technical company,
 heavy weapons company, machine gun company and infantry gun company in
 barracks about 1 1/2 km southwest of Marianske Lazne. The mortar company was
 in Prameny (N 51/P 57), the replacement company in Tepla (N 50/P 66), the
 submachine gun company in the SNB quarters in Dolni Zandov (N 51/P 46), the
 guard detachment in Zamberk (P 51/H 20) and a platoon detached to the SNB
 in Tri Sekery (N 50/P 56). (2)
3. Colonel Travnicky, (fnu), was the commanding officer of the unit; Staff
 Captain Machala, (fnu), belonged to the unit headquarters; Staff Captain
 Krizek, (fnu), was DOZ officer and Captain Nepereny, (fnu), political
 officer. Major Eydov, (fnu), was commanding officer of the replacement
 company. Another officer of the unit was Major Toufan, (fnu). The
 superior divisional commander was General Kostka, (fnu), and his deputy
 was Colonel Rytir, (fnu). Major Kimlicka, (fnu), and the division surgeon,
 Lieutenant Colonel Drasnar, (fnu), belonged to the divisional headquarters. (3)
4. The strength of the unit was estimated at 60 to 70 officers, 200 to 230 NCOs,
 and 740 to 800 men. (4)
5. The headquarters company of 112 men was organized into four platoons. It
 was equipped with German rifles, Czech submachine guns, 10 light machine guns,
 8 trucks, 7 riding horses and 2 draft horses. A rifle company of about 180
 men was armed with an equal number of rifles and submachine guns. There
 were also about 10 light machine guns. The technical company of about 100
 men was composed of a telephone platoon, a radio platoon, an engineer platoon
 and a labor platoon. The heavy weapons company had a mortar platoon with

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four mortars of about 80 mm caliber, and an AT platoon with four 45-mm guns. The machine gun company of about 80 men had seven squads, each with a heavy machine gun. The infantry gun company of about 120 men had three 75-mm guns, 45 horses and some wagons. The strength of the replacement company was estimated at 160 men, equipped with 80 rifles and 80 submachine guns. The submachine gun company in Kolni Zandov numbered 120 men and was equipped with Czech type 48 submachine guns.

6. Winter maneuvers were held from late January until mid-February 1950. The last large-scale maneuver on the divisional level was held from 1 May to 21 June 1950 with tanks, airplanes and units of other divisions participating.

7. Unit [redacted] in Hruskova (N 51/P 58), [redacted] was commanded by Captain Polozinec, (fnu). (5) The company of 170 men was organized into four platoons. The 1st, equipped with machine guns and submachine guns, had been detached for training from units in Marianske Lazne, Cheb (N 51/P 37), As (N 51/P 18) and Karlovy Vary. Training was conducted in the Kaiserwald and included firing with submachine guns, scouting, engineer service, handling of prisoners, radio service, destruction of telephone lines, construction of observation posts and removal of wire obstacles. Major Kirlicka, (fnu), of the divisional headquarters in Karlovy Vary inspected the company three times a week.

25X1 [redacted] Comments.

- 25X1 (1) The unit is the 50th Inf Bn the headquarters of which, however, was located in Marianske Lazne in July 1949. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] The location of a unit in Lazne Kynsvart [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] is questionable [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]

- 25X1 (2) The locations of the companies were reported. [redacted] The reinforcement of SMD units by army details was also previously mentioned. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted]

- 25X1 (3) The commanding officer and DOZ officer have been known since July 1949. [redacted]
25X1 [redacted] General Kostka, (fnu), mentioned as division commander, was the CG of the 13th Inf Brig in Karlovy Vary to which the 50th Inf Bn is subordinate. According to another report Kostka was allegedly replaced by Colonel Sykora, (fnu). [redacted] This statement is now questionable in the light of the information in the present report.

- 25X1 (4) The strength reported seems rather high compared with information of July 1949. [redacted] At that time large elements of the battalion were detached to labor brigades or construction parties working in the border area. Should the present figures be correct the battalion was probably brought to full strength.

- (5) The unit in Hruskova, assigned to the Kaiserwald troop training grounds, was a training company for reconnaissance and submachine gun companies.

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